

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVISE ITS ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES AND POLICIES TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE TRADITIONAL
HAWAIIAN BURIALS.

1 WHEREAS, there has been a recent increase of interest in
2 traditional Hawaiian practices for burials amongst Native
3 Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians; and
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5 WHEREAS, a recognized traditional Hawaiian practice for
6 treatment of a corpse involves reducing a corpse to its skeletal
7 remains, known as "iwi", and interring the iwi in a kapa or
8 lauhala container; and
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10 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian treatment of a corpse is
11 safe, feasible, and cost effective through the use of modern
12 crematories or other similar operations; and
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14 WHEREAS, modern treatment of corpses often involves
15 chemicals such as embalming fluids which when buried, can be
16 harmful to the environment as the chemicals will eventually be
17 released into the soil and aquifers; and
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19 WHEREAS, in comparison to modern burial techniques, a
20 traditional Hawaiian burial is a cleaner, more environmentally
21 friendly process; and
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23 WHEREAS, a traditional Hawaiian burial is also more cost
24 effective than modern burial techniques as a smaller burial plot
25 is required and costs of caskets are avoided; and
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27 WHEREAS, the decrease in space required for a burial plot
28 will result in an increase in the carrying capacities for
29 cemeteries; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not have rules and
32 policies addressing traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and
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1 WHEREAS, adopting rules and policies to address traditional
 2 Hawaiian burial practices would encourage and promote the use of
 3 traditional Hawaiian burial practices; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
 6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
 7 that the Department of Health is requested to review and
 8 implement administrative rules and policies applicable to the
 9 processing, burial, and transportation of a corpse that would
 10 encourage and promote the use of traditional Hawaiian burial
 11 practices; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 14 requested to submit a report on its findings and actions to the
 15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 16 the Regular Session of 2016; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
 20 Health.
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OFFERED BY:

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